

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A fan protection method for protecting a fan when said fan ~~can not~~cannot work normally, wherein said method includes a set number of fan stops, said method comprising steps of:

~~stopping said fan~~stopping transferring a drive signal to said fan to stop said fan;  
determining whether or not a number of fan stops is equal to said set number;  
restarting said fan when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number,  
wherein said drive signal is transferred to said fan again to restart said fan;  
determining whether or not said fan can work normally;  
resetting said set number when said fan can work normally; and  
cutting off power without restoring power thereafter to said fan when said number of fan stops is equal to said set number.

2. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein said set number is set by a user.

3. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein said number of fan stops is counted by a counter.

4. (previously presented) The fan protection method according to claim 1, wherein when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number, further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally.

5. (currently amended) A fan protection method for protecting a fan when said fan ~~can not~~cannot work normally said method comprising steps of:

~~stopping said fan for a first time period~~stopping transferring a drive signal to said fan to stop said fan for a first time period;

determining whether or not a number of stops is equal to a first stopping number;

restarting said fan when said number of stops is not equal to said first stopping number wherein said drive signal is transferred to said fan again to restart said fan;

~~stopping said fan for a second time period~~stopping transferring said drive signal to said fan to stop said fan for a second time period,- when said number of stops is

equal to said first stopping number or repeating above steps when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number;

restarting said fan, wherein said drive signal is transferred to said fan again to restart said fan;

determining whether or not the number of stops is equal to a second stopping number;

cutting off power without restoring power thereafter to said fan when said number of stops is equal to said second stopping number; and

repeating the above steps when said number of ~~fan restarts~~stops is not equal to said second stopping number.

6. (previously presented) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said first time period and said second time period are set by a user.

7. (original) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said first stopping number and said second stopping number are set by a user.

8. (previously presented) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein said fan stops number is counted by a counter.

9. (currently amended) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein ~~said stop (c)~~ further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally and resetting said first stopping number.

10. (previously presented) The fan protection method according to claim 5, wherein further comprises making said fan keep working when said fan is able to work normally.

11. (currently amended) A fan protection apparatus for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, wherein said apparatus has a set number of fan ~~restarts~~ stops, said apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for stopping said fan or starting said fan; and

a first counter connecting to said control circuit for counting a number of fan stops~~restarts~~;

wherein a control signal is generated when said number of fan stops~~restarts~~ is equal to said set number and said control signal is transferred to said control circuit to stop said fan for a first time period.

12. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said first counter when said fan is able to work normally.

13. (previously presented) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said first time period is set by a user.

14. (previously presented) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus further comprises a second counter connected to said first counter to determine the number of times of stopping said fan for a first time period.

15. (previously presented) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the number of times of stopping said fan for a first time period is set by a user.

16. (previously presented) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said control circuit cuts off power to said fan when said number of times of stopping said fan for a first time period is equal to said set number.

17. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said second counter when said fan is able to work normally.

18. (currently amended) A fan protection apparatus for protecting a fan when said fan can not work normally, wherein said apparatus sets a first stopping number and a second stopping number for stopping the fan, said apparatus comprising:

a control circuit for stopping said fan or starting said fan; and

a first counter connected to said control circuit for counting a number of fan ~~restarts~~stops, wherein a control signal is generated when said number of fan ~~restarts~~stops is equal to said first stopping number and said control signal is transferred to said control circuit to stop said fan for a first time period; and

a second counter connected to said first counter for receiving said control signal, wherein said second counter counts the number of times of stopping said fan for the first time period, and said control circuit cuts off power to said fan when said number

of times of stopping said fan for a second time period is equal to said second stopping number.

19. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first time, said first stopping number, and said second stopping number are set by a user.

20. (original) The fan protection apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control circuit sends a reset signal to reset said first and said second counter when said fan is able to work normally.

21. (New) The fan protection method according to claim 1, further comprising repeating the recited steps when said number of fan stops is not equal to said set number.